

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 OMB-01

CIEP-03 IO-14 DRC-01 /154 W
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R 192206Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9886

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4968

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, ELAB, SHUM

SUBJECT: REACTION TO ITF BOYCOTT AGAINST CHILE

REF: STOCKHOLM 3536; SANTIAGO 4925

1. SUMMARY: GOVT. SPOKESMAN BELITTLED ECONOMIC IMPACT OF SEPT. 18-19 ITF BOYCOTT AGAINST CHILE AND CLAIMED COINCIDENCE WITH CHILEAN INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS WILL UNITE CHILEANS EVEN MORE AGAINST FOREIGN ADVERSARIES. EDITORIAL REACTION WAS ONE OF RESIGNATION AND PLACED BOYCOTT IN CONTEXT OF GENERAL CAMPAIGN OF "INTERNATIONAL MARXISM" AGAINST CHILE. NEITHER GOVT, NOR MEDIA HAVE ADDRESSED THEMSELVES TO SUBSTANCE OF ITF COMPLAINTS OF GOC RESTRICTIONS ON TRADE UNION FREEDOMS. CHILEAN LABOR LEADERS ATTENDING STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE ARE GENERALLY PLEASED WITH OUTCOME, ALTHOUGH MANY LEADERS OF NON-ITF AFFILIATED CHILEAN UNIONS HAD HOPED FOR STRONGER MEASURES AGAINST CHILE. END SUMMARY.

2. ONLY OFFICIAL GOC REACTION SO FAR TO ITF BOYCOTT WAS STATEMENT MADE BY UNDERSECRETARY FON RELS COLLADOS DURING REGULAR PRESS CONFERENCE AUG 16. COLLADOS CLAIMED TWO-DAY BOYCOTT
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"WILL NOT HAVE THE (ADVERSE) EFFECTS ITS SPONSORS DESIRE" AND

THAT CHILEAN ECONOMY WILL NOT BE ESPECIALLY DAMAGED. NOTING COINCIDENCE OF SEPT 18-19 BOYCOTT DATES WITH TRADITIONAL CHILEAN INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, COLLADOS ARGUED THAT RESULT WILL BE TO UNITE CHILEANS MORE THAN EVER AGAINST FOREIGN ADVERSARIES. UNDER SEC CITED FACT THAT "LEGITIMATE" CHILEAN WORKERS DELEGATION WAS NOT SEATED AT ITF CONGRESS, AND STRESSED "UNFAIRNESS" OF ITF FIRST DECLARING A BOYCOTT AND THEN SENDING INVESTIGATING TEAM TO CHILE. DRAWING A PARALLEL WITH RECENT ILO CONFERENCE, COLLADOS STATED ITF BOYCOTT DEMONSTRATES "HIGH LEVEL OF POLITIZATION" OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR BODIES CURRENTLY, THEN SPECULATED ON USEFULNESS OF CHILEAN PARTICIPATION IN SUCH ORGANIZATIONS. COLLADOS DID NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PRIVATE NATURE OF ITF AND TRIPARTITE NATURE OF ILO, NOR ENTER INTO SUBSTANCE OF ITF CHARGES OF GOC VIOLATIONS OF TRADE UNION LIBERTIES.

3. ITF BOYCOTT ALSO RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE EDITORIAL COMMENT OVER WEEKEND, ESPECIALLY IN CONSERVATIVE "EL MERCURIO" GOC-LINE "LA PATRIA", AND RIGHTIST, SENSATIONALIST "LA SEGUNDA" PREVAILING THEME IS THAT BOYCOTT IS JUST ONE MORE ANTI-CHILEAN MANEUVER OF INTERNATIONAL MARXISM. MOST COMMENTATORS NOTED PRESENCE IN STOCKHOLM OF PROMINENT COMMUNIST LEADERS OF DISBANDED CHILEAN CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS (CUT.) SECONDARY THEME IS THAT, IN SPITE OF ALL-OUT MARXIST EFFORT, BOYCOTT OF "ONLY" TWO DAYS IS VICTORY FOR CHILE IN THAT MARXISTS "DEMANDED" IMMEDIATE, INDEFINITE, AND TOTAL BOYCOTT. SEVERAL EDITORIALS PRAISED "VALIANT" EFFORTS OF CHILEAN WORKERS DELEGATION TO "DEFEND" CHILE AGAINST OVERWHELMING ODDS. LITTLE COMMENT ON ITF INVESTIGATING TEAM AND NO ATTEMPT TO REFUTE SUBSTANCE OF ITF CHARGES ON TRADE UNION SITUATION.

4. ALL OF CHILEAN ITF DELEGATION EXCEPT CARRASCO RETURNED TO SANTIAGO AUG 19. THEY WILL REPORT TO MIN LABOR GEN. DIAZ AUG 20 AND POSSIBLY HOLD SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE.

5. IN COMMENTS TO EMBREP AT AIRPORT, TWO LINES OF THOUGHT EMERGED: DELEGATES TO ITF CONGRESS KNEW BEFOREHAND FROM GOMERO VISIT (SANTIAGO 4223) TO EXPECT SOME KIND OF BOYCOTT AND THEY AND THEIR ORGANIZATION WERE PREPARED FOR IT. ALTHOUGH OFFICIALLY UNHAPPY ABOUT MORE-OR-LESS BEING FORCED BY GOC TO CONFIDENTIAL

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GO TO STOCKHOLM, A TRIP IS A TRIP. THEY ARE ESSENTIALLY SATISFIED WITH 48-HOUR BOYCOTT ACCORD, DEEMING FACT NO TOUGHER MEASURE WAS APPROVED A "SUCCESS" FOR WHICH THEY CAN CLAIM SOME CREDIT AND WHICH PUTS THEM IN GOOD STANDING WITH GOVT. ON OTHER HAND, LEADERS OF LOCAL NON-ITF AFFILIATED UNIONS (E.G. COPPER

WORKERS) TOLD EMBREP THEY ARE DISAPPOINTED AT BLANDNESS AND TIMING OF BOYCOTT. MANY OF THEM HOPED FOR MUCH TOUGHER MEASURES

AGAINST GOC AND ARGUE, AS DOES COLLADOS, THAT COINCIDENCE WITH INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS WILL HAVE BOOMERANG EFFECT DOMESTICALLY. THEY ARE ALSO UPSET THAT THEIR COLLEAGUES WENT TO STOCKHOLM, CLAIMING DELEGATES SHOULD HAVE RESISTED GOC PRESSURES AND ARGUING THAT LABOR MOVEMENT'S ABILITY TO EXTRACT CONCESSIONS IN LABOR FIELD FROM GOC HAS NOW BEEN WEAKENED.

6. OTHER SIGNIFICANT REACTION WILL BE REPORTED AS AVAILABLE.
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